

Oakland Army Base, Railroad Engine Shop
(Switch Engine Building) (Building No. 991)
Engineer Road, approximately 900 feet east
of intersection with Wake Avenue.
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-M

HAER
CAL
1-OAK,
12M--

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
OAKLAND ARMY BASE, RAILROAD ENGINE SHOP
(Switch Engine Building)(Building No. 991)

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Location: Engineer Road, approximately 900 feet east of intersection with Wake Avenue.
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150

Date of Construction: September 1942

Architect: Not known

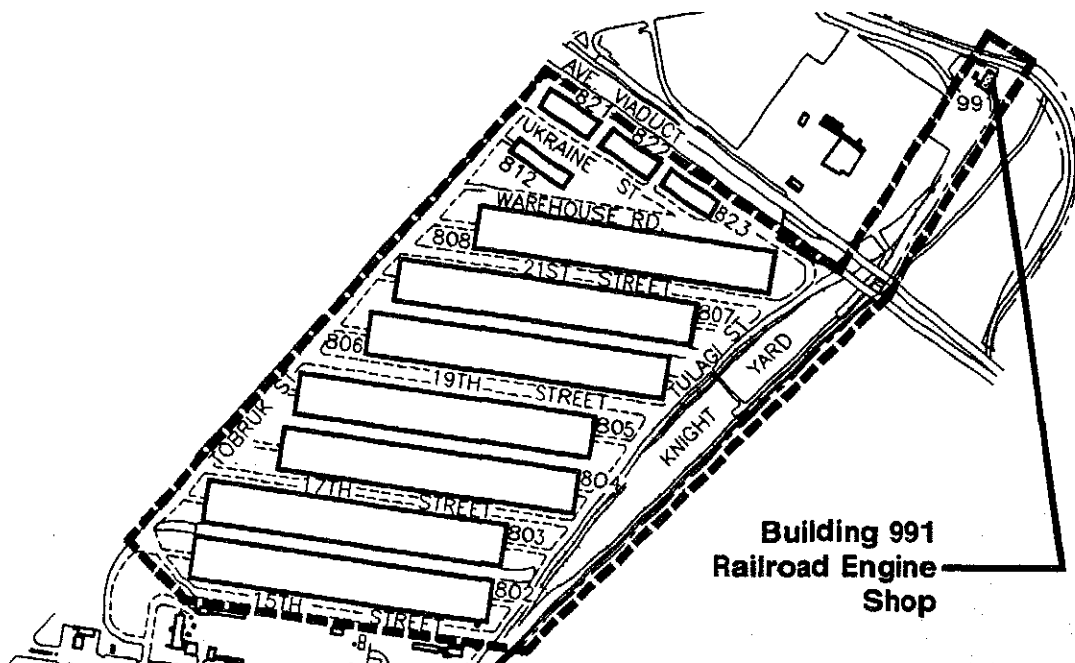
Contractor: At least initially, some 600 black troops of the 394th Quartermaster Battalion helped in construction of the Installation. Additional subcontractors and suppliers consisted primarily of businesses in the San Francisco Bay area.

Present Owner and Occupant: Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

Original Use: Switch Engine Building

Present Use: Railroad Engine Shop

Significance: The Railroad Engine Shop, provided both housing and maintenance for OARB's locomotive engines. The conveyance, by rail, of troops and matériel to the shipping berths was important in fulfilling the Installation's wartime mission.



Original Plans: No original plans were found for Building 991. However, the Real Property Record notes that standard drawings series number 700-1261 was used as the basis for the building's design.

Alterations: The building remains substantially unchanged from the time of construction.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. This Railroad Engine Shop, constructed from standard drawing series number 700-1261, is typical of the period.

Condition of Fabric. The building is in average condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. The main building is 80' x 41'-6". A wing of 13' x 12 extends off the southeastern corner of the structure. Total gross square footage is 3,476 (*Photograph CA-125-M-3*).

Foundations. Building 991 is supported on concrete footings.

Walls. Wood frame covered by cement-asbestos shingles.

Structural System. Heavy wood frame construction with four central wood posts supporting the roof trusses.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. None.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Wood sash windows provide natural interior lighting (*Photographs CA-125-M-2 and M-4*). The only entrance is through one of the two double-wide hinged doors spanning each of the two railroad tracks entering the building. The doors are constructed of 1" x 8" diagonal wood sheathing. A small "personnel" door in one panel allows access to the building without opening the large double doors (*Photograph CA-125-M-1*).

Roof. The roof is surfaced with built-up bituminous roofing over wood decking, pitched approximately .4 in 12.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. The shop is a single room with space for two locomotives entering the building on dual tracks (*Photograph CA-125-M-5*). The west track is equipped with a concrete pit for access to the underside of the locomotive. There are four partitioned rooms in the building: toilet (9' x 4'), boiler room (13'-6" x 12'-9"), office (9' x 11'), and storage room (9' x 29').

Stairways. None.

Flooring. Concrete.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. All interior surfaces are unfinished.

Openings. Standard interior wood doors open into the toilet in the southwest corner, boiler room in the southeast corner, and the office and storage rooms. The office has a single borrowed light to the shop.

Decorative Features and Trims. None.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. It is not known what types of mechanical equipment were included in the building as constructed. The current equipment and utilities fixtures appear to be contemporary.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 991, a maintenance facility, is located within an area devoted primarily to supply/storage land use activities. Neighboring land uses include the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Sewage Treatment Plant to the north, and Southern Pacific railroad trackage to the east.

Historic Landscaping Design. None.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. The Real Property Records indicate that a set of standard drawings were used (#700-1261), either as-is or in a modified configuration. While no As-Builts were available, three drawings were found in the OARB Engineering Office. Two drawings were dated 1942, possibly depicting the modifications to the standards drawings. A third drawing, dated 1963, is a scaled floor of the facility as it now appears. All three drawings have been reproduced and are included as a supplement to this survey.

Early Views. None.